



AGS Distinguished Service Award – 1994

Ken Howells

I nominate Ken Howells for the Distinguished Service Award of the Atlantic Geoscience Society. Ken is truly one of the pioneers of our Society. He attended the initial organizational meetings and was elected a member of council upon formation of AGS in 1972.

Throughout the 1970s Ken provided a steadying influence in council, helping to organize the first annual meeting, which was held in Fredericton in 1974. He was also instrumental in drawing up the Society's constitution, which was accepted by council and the general membership with minimal change. Other responsibilities included serving as program chairman and assuming responsibility for some of the Society's finances.

Ken's major contribution in those formative years was to serve as Chairman, of the Field Trip Committee for Halifax '80, the annual meeting of the Geological and Mineralogical Societies of Canada. This very successful meeting generated a surplus, part of which helped to place AGS on a firm financial footing. One factor in the success was that the field trips were profitable, possibly a first for GAC and MAC. This was due primarily to Ken's effectiveness in budgeting and to the remarkable efficiency and economy shown in production of the field trip guides.

Several AGS members experienced burnout following Halifax '80 but not Ken Howells. He remained active both within the Society and within Council. This culminated in 1983 when Ken became the eleventh president of AGS. One major initiative started during his tenure was the video project, one of the most successful ventures of the Society.

Upon stepping down, Ken Howells several times served as informal auditor for AGS until he succumbed to the lure of Wolfville '92. Much of the success of this annual GAC/MAC meeting was due to Ken. As Chairman of the Finance Committee, he was responsible for all the finances, including the demanding task of fundraising. The surplus from Wolfville '92 was \$92,000, an appropriate number to match the year and the second highest figure for a GAC/MAC meeting. Again, AGS benefitted financially, receiving \$20,000 from the parent societies.

Perhaps the major accomplishment of the Atlantic Geoscience Society has been to continue publication of Atlantic Geology. The journal, since adoption by the Society, has maintained its high standards, in part through the quality of its associate editors. Ken Howells is now serving as an associate editor, a position he has held since 1986.

During its existence, AGS has been fortunate in attracting the commitment and loyalty of several members, who have had a major impact on its development. Ken Howells has earned his place in this select group and would be a worthy recipient of the Society's Distinguished Service Award.

Yours sincerely,

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